

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

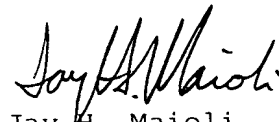
As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments made to the specification are provided to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A [reproducing method, electronic money, or an electronic use] system for providing the right [of] to use and reproduce contents data involving so-called electronic money, whereby when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced, a security for electronic money or an electronic use right is checked, if the electronic money or the electronic use right is invalid as a result of the security check, the reproduction of the contents data is stopped, and if the electronic money or the electronic use right is valid as a result of the security check, the contents data is reproduced and the electronic money or the electronic use right is consumed.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-61 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) Electronic money having validity corresponding to cash, wherein

a security of said money [can be changed] is changeable by one of an issuing source [or] and an administrator.

--2. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code, [or] and a valid term.

--3. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed at every predetermined period.

--4. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1,

wherein changing of said [change] security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source [or] and said administrator.

--5. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1, wherein after completion of changing said [change] security, the security before said [change] changing is invalidated after [the elapse] a lapse of a predetermined time period.

--6. (Amended) An electronic use right [which] that enables software [such as] so that reproduction [or the like] of contents [to be used] can be performed, wherein

a security of said electronic use right [can be changed] is changeable by one of an issuing source [or] and an administrator.

--7. (Amended) [An] The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code, [or] and a valid term.

--8. (Amended) [An] The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed at every predetermined time period.

--9. (Amended) [An] The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source [or] and said administrator.

--10. (Amended) [An] The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein after completion of changing said [change]

security, the security before said [change] changing is invalidated after [the elapse] lapse of a predetermined time period.

--11. (Amended) [An] The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein said software is [at least] one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphics data, game software, and a computer program.

--12. (Amended) A charging system in which when software [which] that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is distributed and [the] a user decodes the distributed software, a charging process is performed through electronic money [which] that the user possesses, wherein

a security for the electronic money [can be changed] is changeable by one of an issuing source [or] and an administrator.

--13. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code, [or] and a valid term.

--14. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed at every predetermined time period.

--15. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source or said administrator.

--16. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein after completion of changing said [change] security, the security before said change is invalidated after [the elapse] lapse of a predetermined time period.

--17. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein one of said issuing source [or] and said administrator [buys] performs one of buying one of the electronic money [or] and an electronic use right [which] that the user possesses [or exchanges it to] and exchanging one of the electronic money and the electronic use right for one of valid electronic money [or] and a valid electronic use right.

--18. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein a request for one of the electronic money [or] and an electronic use right is generated at a timing when a result of the decoding by the user reaches a range permitted by one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right.

--19. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 12, wherein said software is [at least] one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphics data, game software, and a computer program.

--20. (Amended) A charging system in which when software [which] that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is distributed and [the] a user decodes the distributed software, a charging process is performed through an electronic use right [which] that the user possesses, wherein

a security for the electronic use right [can be changed] is changeable by one of an issuing source or an administrator.

--21. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code, [or] and a valid term.

--22. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed at every predetermined time period.

--23. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein changing of said [change] security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source [or] and said administrator.

--24. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein after completion of changing said [change] security, the security before said change is invalidated after [the elapse] lapse of a predetermined time period.

--25. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein one of said issuing source [or] and said administrator [buys] performs one of buying one of electronic money [or] and the electronic use right [which] that the user possesses [or exchanges it to] and exchanging one of the electronic money and the electronic use right for one of valid electronic money [or] and a valid electronic use right.

--26. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein one of a request for electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is generated at a timing when a result of [the] decoding by one of the user reaches a range permitted by the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right.

--27. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 20, wherein said software is [at least] one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphics data, gamma software, and a computer program.

--28. (Amended) A charging system [which] that operates by using one of electronic money [or] and an electronic use right, wherein

a security for one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is checked, and

when a result of said security check indicates [NG] a no go (NG), at least [either] one of a stop of the operation of the system [or] and a notification showing that the result of said security check indicates NG is performed.

--29. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said security check is a check of one of a result of a decoding of an encryption, a result of an error detection and/or correction, [or] and a valid term.

--30. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said security check is performed by checking whether [the] one of remaining electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is in a legal state after completion of [the] a decoding [or not] operation.

--31. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said notification is made to one of an issuing source [or] and an administrator of one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right.

--32. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said notification is made to [the] a user.

--33. (Amended) A charging system in which when software [which] that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is distributed and [the] a user decodes said distributed software, a charging process is performed through one of electronic money [or] and an electronic use right [which] that the user possesses, wherein

a security for one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is checked, and

when a result of said security check indicates [NG] a no go (NG), at least [either] one of a stop of the operation of the system [or] and a notification showing that the result of said security check indicates NG is performed.

--34. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said security check is a check of one of a result of a decoding of an encryption, a result of an error detection and/or correction, [or] and a valid term.

--35. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said security check is performed by checking whether [the] one of remaining electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is in a legal state after completion of the decoding [or not].

--36. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said notification is made to one of an issuing source [or] and an administrator of one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right.

--37. (Amended) [A] The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said notification is made to the user.

--38. (Amended) An information processing apparatus in which when distributed software [which] that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is decoded, a charging process is performed through one of electronic money [or] and an electronic use right, wherein

a security for one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is checked, and

when a result of said security check indicates [NG] a no go (NG), at least [either] one of a stop of [the] decoding [of] the software [or] and a notification showing that the result of said security check indicates NG is performed.

--39. (Amended) [An] The information processing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said security check is one of a check of a result of a decoding of an encryption, a result of an error detection and/or correction, [or] and a valid term.

--40. (Amended) [An] The information processing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said security check is performed by checking [whether] one of the remaining electronic money [or] and the electronic use right is in a legal state after completion of the decoding [or not].

--41. (Amended) [An] The information processing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said notification is made to one of an issuing source [or] and an administrator of one of the electronic money [or] and the electronic use right.

--42. (Amended) [An] The information processing apparatus

according to claim 38, wherein said notification is made to [the] a user.

--43. (Amended) A reproducing method of contents data, comprising the steps of:

checking a security for an electronic use right when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced;

stopping [the] reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security [check]; and

performing [the] a reproducing process of said contents data and consuming said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security [check].

--44. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security [check], whether said electronic use right of an amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains [or not] is discriminated, and when said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data does not remain, the reproducing process of said contents data is not executed.

--45. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim [44] 43, wherein [if] when it is determined that said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains, the reproducing process of said contents data is executed and said electronic use right is consumed.

--46. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim [43] 45, wherein the consumption of said electronic use right is performed based on [the basis of] a charge condition in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

--47. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein said electronic use right includes data regarding a header and at least valid start year/month/day, data indicative of a kind of encryption, [and] data regarding the electronic use right, and [has] an error correction code.

--48. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when it is determined that said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security [check], a management organization for managing said electronic use right is notified of such a fact.

--49. (Amended) A reproducing method of contents data, comprising the steps of:

checking a security for an electronic use right [which] that is used in a charging process that is executed when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced;

stopping [the] reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security [check]; and

performing [the] a reproducing process of said contents data and the charging process based on [the basis of] said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security [check].

--50. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security [check], whether said electronic use right of an amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains [or not] is discriminated, and when said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data does not remain, the reproducing process of said contents data is not executed.

--51. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim [50] 49, wherein [if] when it is determined that said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains, the reproducing process of said contents data is executed and the charging process is executed based on [the basis of] said electronic use right.

--52. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein the charging process based on said electronic use right is executed based on [the basis of] a charge condition in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

--53. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein said electronic use right includes data regarding a header and at least valid start year/month/day, data indicative of a kind of encryption, [and] data regarding the electronic use right, and [has] an error correction code..

--54. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data

according to claim 49, wherein when it is determined as a result of said step of checking a security [check] that said electronic use right is invalid, a management organization for managing said electronic use right is notified of such a fact.

--55. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, [an old] a previous electronic use right is replaced with a new electronic use right.

--56. (Amended) [A] The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, data regarding a reproduction history of the contents data reproduced when said electronic use right is restored is transmitted to a management organization for managing said electronic use right.

--57. (Amended) A reproduction control method comprising the steps of:

storing an electronic use right purchased from a management organization into a memory in a player;

checking a security for said electronic use right [which] that is used in a charging process which is executed when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced by the player;

stopping [the] reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security [check]; and

performing [the] a reproducing process of said contents data and executing the charging process based on [the basis of] said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security [check].

--58. (Amended) [A] The reproduction control method according to claim 57, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, [an old] a previous electronic use right is replaced with a new electronic use right.

--59. (Amended) [A] The reproduction control method according to claim 57, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, data regarding a reproduction history of the reproduced contents data is transmitted to said management organization for managing said electronic use right.

--60. (Amended) [A] The reproduction control method according to claim 59, wherein when said reproduction history exceeds a predetermined permission amount, said management organization inhibits the reproduction of the contents data [which is executed] by said player.

--61. (Amended) [A] The reproduction control method according to claim 60, wherein said management organization further collects the electronic use rights stored in a memory of said player.